

PARTICIPATION BY MINORITY OWNED BUSINESSES AND WOMAN OWNED BUSINESSES

Pursuant to Executive Order 390, the Commissioner of the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAM), as designee of the Secretary of Administration and Finance, has developed the following goals and procedures to encourage full participation by minority business enterprises (MBEs) and women businesses enterprises (WBEs) (collectively M/WBEs) on contracts for design services entered into by DCAM.

GOALS

Subject to the terms of this memorandum, the following M/WBE participation goals shall apply to the total dollar value of all study and design contracts awarded for every DCAM project:

MBE participation goal: 8%

WBE participation goal: 4%

If the contracting design firm is an MBE or WBE, then M/WBE participation credit shall be given in an amount equal to the entire fee paid to the contracting firm. Please note: if the contracting design firm is itself an MBE or WBE, it will still need to obtain participation by another MBE or WBE to meet the goal that it cannot itself fulfill. If the contracting design firm is not itself an MBE or WBE, then M/WBE participation credit will be given for the value of any work under the contract that is actually performed by each MBE or WBE subcontractor or subconsultant (hereafter “subcontractors”) to the Designer. MBE participation may not be substituted for WBE participation, nor may WBE participation be substituted for MBE participation.

MODIFICATION OF M/WBE PARTICIPATION GOALS FOR PARTICULAR PROJECTS

DCAM reserves the right to reduce or waive the M/WBE participation goals stated above for a particular project prior to the receipt of applications to the Designer Selection Board upon its own initiative or upon the request of any applicant if DCAM determines that it is not feasible for a non-M/WBE design firm to meet the M/WBE goals established for the project based upon any or all of the following: (i) actual M/WBE availability, (ii) the geographic location of the project to the extent related to M/WBE availability, (iii) the contractual scope of work, (iv) the percentage of work available for subcontracting to M/WBEs, or (v) other relevant factors as determined by DCAM.

The M/WBE participation goals established for each project are set forth in the Designer Selection Board Project Criteria published for that project.

After a project is advertised, requests from prospective applicants to reduce or waive the M/WBE participation goals for that project, with all supporting documentation, must be submitted with the application, with a copy to DCAM’s Compliance Office, One Ashburton Place, 15th Floor, Boston, MA 02108. Except as provided below, DCAM will not consider any request to reduce or waive the M/WBE participation goals for a project if the request is received after this deadline.

DETERMINATION OF M/WBE STATUS

A minority owned business shall be considered an MBE only if it has been certified as a minority owned business by the State Office of Minority and Women Business Assistance (“SOMWBA”). A woman owned business shall be considered a WBE only if it has been certified as a woman owned business by SOMWBA.

Certification as a disadvantaged business enterprise (“DBE”), certification as an M/WBE by any agency other than SOMWBA, or submission of an application to SOMWBA for certification as an M/WBE shall not confer M/WBE status on a firm.

Minority owned businesses and woman owned businesses are strongly encouraged to submit applications for certification as M/WBEs to SOMWBA. Information is available from SOMWBA, Ten Park Plaza, Room 3740, Boston, MA 02116 (617) 973-8692, and on the Internet at <<http://www.state.ma.us/somwba>>.

IDENTIFICATION OF M/WBE PARTICIPANTS BY THE SELECTED DESIGNER

The current SOMWBA Certification Letters showing that the MBE/WBE is certified in the area of work for which it is listed on the application must be submitted for each and every MBE and WBE firm listed on the application, and must be submitted with the application.

Not later than five (5) working days after the Designer receives notice of selection for the advertised project, (A-5 Letter), the Designer shall submit to DCAM’s Compliance Office (i) a Letter of Intent for each of the M/WBEs that will perform work under the contract, and (ii) a Schedule of M/WBE Participation. The form of Letter of Intent and Schedule of M/WBE Participation are included in this application package.

Within five (5) working days after receipt of the Letters of Intent, DCAM’s Compliance Office shall review and either approve or disapprove the Designer’s submissions. Without limitation, DCAM reserves the right to reject the Letter of Intent of any M/WBE that is to perform work in a category that is not listed in its SOMWBA certification, or if the price to be paid for the M/WBE Work as stated in the Letter of Intent does not bear a reasonable relationship to the value of such work as reasonably determined by DCAM. If the Designer has not submitted an appropriate Schedule of M/WBE Participation and appropriate Letters of Intent and SOMWBA certification letters establishing that the M/WBE participation goal for the project will be met, the Designer may be considered ineligible for award of the contract and DCAM may award the contract to the second ranked Designer, subject to that Designer’s compliance with these conditions.

DCAM reserves the right to reduce or waive the M/WBE participation goals for a project after selection of the designer and before execution of the contract, provided that no such reduction or waiver shall be granted except under the following circumstances: the selected Designer must establish and document that it has been unable to obtain commitments from M/WBE subcontractors sufficient to meet the M/WBE goals for the project after having made a diligent, good faith effort to do so; all such documentation must accompany the Designer’s request to reduce or waive the M/WBE participation goal and shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- A list of all items of work under the contract that the Designer made available for subcontracting to W/MBEs. The Designer shall identify all items of work that the Designer did not make so available and shall state the reasons for not making such work available for subcontracting to W/MBEs. The Designer shall also demonstrate that, where commercially reasonable, subcontracts were divided into units capable of being performed by M/WBEs.
- Evidence that the Designer sent written notices soliciting proposals to perform the items of work made available by the Designer for subcontracting to W/MBEs to all W/MBEs qualified to perform such work. The Designer shall identify (i) each W/MBE solicited, and (ii) each W/MBE listed in the SOMWBA directory under the applicable trade category who was not solicited and the reasons therefor. The Designer shall also state the dates notices were mailed and provide a copy of the written notice(s) sent.

- Evidence that the Designer made reasonable efforts to follow up the written notices sent to M/WBEs with telephone calls or personal visits in order to determine with certainty whether the M/WBEs were interested in performing the work. Phone logs or other documentation must be submitted.
- A statement of the response received from each M/WBE solicited, including the reason for rejecting any M/WBE who submitted a proposal.
- Evidence of efforts made to assist M/WBEs that need assistance in obtaining bonding, insurance, or lines of credit with suppliers if the inability of M/WBEs to obtain bonding, insurance, or lines of credit is a reason given for the Designer's inability to meet the M/WBE goals.
- The Designer also shall submit any other information reasonably requested by DCAM to show that the Designer has taken all actions which could be reasonably expected to achieve the M/WBE participation goals.

The Designer may submit any other information supporting its request for a waiver or reduction in the M/WBE participation goals, such as evidence that the Designer placed advertisements in appropriate media and trade association publications announcing the Designer's interest in obtaining proposals from M/WBEs, and/or sent written notification to M/WBE economic development assistance agencies, trade groups and other organizations notifying them of the project and the work to be subcontracted by the Designer to M/WBEs.

Requests by a selected Designer to reduce or waive the M/WBE participation goals for a particular project based upon the Designer's inability to obtain commitments from M/WBE subcontractors sufficient to meet the M/WBE goals after having made a diligent, good faith effort to do so must be received by DCAM not later than five (5) business days after receipt by the Designer of the notice of selection (A-5 Letter).

The Designer's compliance with these procedures and goals is a prerequisite for award of the contract, provided that DCAM reserves the right to waive minor defects in documents and extend time limits in its sole discretion.